

## IELTS Writing Task 1 - Example 5

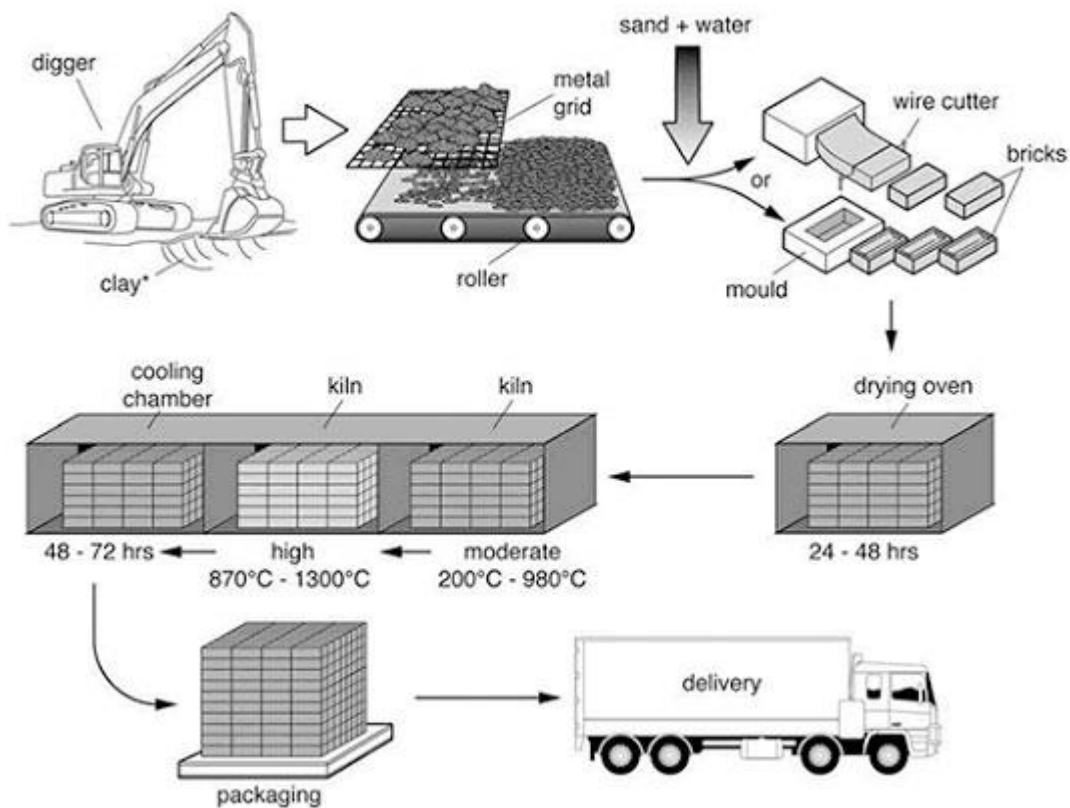
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The diagram illustrates the process that is used to manufacture bricks for the building industry.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

### The Brick Manufacturing Process



## IELTS Process Model Answer

The diagram explains the way in which bricks are made for the building industry. Overall, there are seven stages in the process, beginning with the digging up of clay and culminating in delivery.

To begin, the clay used to make the bricks is dug up from the ground by a large digger. This clay is then placed onto a metal grid, which is used to break up the clay into smaller pieces. A roller assists in this process.

Following this, sand and water are added to the clay, and this mixture is turned into bricks by either placing it into a mould or using a wire cutter. Next, these bricks are placed in an oven to dry for 24 – 48 hours.

In the subsequent stage, the bricks go through a heating and cooling process. They are heated in a kiln at a moderate and then a high temperature (ranging from 200c to 1300c), followed by a cooling process in a chamber for 2 – 3 days. Finally, the bricks are packed and delivered to their destinations.

Words 173

## How to describe a process...

### Highlight the main points

An IELTS process diagram is different to a line, bar, pie chart or table in that there are not usually key changes or trends to identify. However, you should still **give an overview** of what is taking place.

The ‘**public band descriptors**’ state that to achieve a band 6 or more for ‘**task response**’ the student must **provide an overview** in a task 1.

As there are no trends to comment on, you can make a comment on, for example, the **number of stages in the process** and how it **begins and ends**:

*Overall, there are eight stages in the process, beginning with the digging up of clay and culminating in delivery.*

## Giving the detail

Now you need to explain the IELTS process diagram, and there are two key aspects of language associated with this:

### Time Connectors

A process is a **series of events**, one taking place after the other. Therefore, to connect your stages, you should use '**time connectors**'. Here is the rest of the answer with the time connectors highlighted (notice that you simply go from the beginning to the end of the process):

***To begin**, the clay used to make the bricks is dug up from the ground by a large digger. This clay is **then** placed onto a metal grid, which is used to break up the clay into smaller pieces. A roller assists in this process.*

***Following this**, sand and water are added to the clay, and this mixture is turned into bricks by either placing it into a mould or using a wire cutter. **Next**, these bricks are placed in an oven to dry for 24 – 48 hours.*

***In the subsequent stage**, the bricks go through a heating and cooling process. They are heated in a kiln at a moderate and **then** a high temperature (ranging from 200c to 1300c), **followed by** a cooling process in a chamber for 2 – 3 days. **Finally**, the bricks are packed and delivered to their destinations.*

These connectors are the same you would use to write a [graph over time](#) when you explain a series of changes.

These are some common IELTS process diagram connectors:

To begin
Following this
Next
Then
After
After that
Before**
Subsequently
Finally

\*\* If you use **before**, this means that you will be mentioning a later stage before an earlier stage, so you need to use it carefully. If you can use it properly though, it will get noticed.

Here is an example using stages four and five: *Before being dried in the oven, the mixture is turned into bricks by either placing it into a mould or using a wire cutter.*

## The Passive

When we describe an IELTS process, the focus is on **the activities**, NOT the person doing them.

When this is the case, we use **the passive voice**, not the active.

So throughout most of your description for your IELTS process diagram, you should be using the passive voice.

This is difficult as some verbs cannot take the passive. For example, 'to go' cannot be passive, so it is kept in the active voice:

*...the bricks go through a heating and cooling process.*

This is why you need to make sure you practice the passive so you know exactly how to use it.

Also, as you will see from the description, it is more usual to comment on who or what is doing the action so the 'by....' phrase is excluded.

Here is the same example description with uses of the passive highlighted:

*To begin, the clay (which **is**) **used** to make the bricks **is dug up** from the ground by a large digger. This clay **is then placed** onto a metal grid, which **is used** to break up the clay into smaller pieces. A roller assists in this process.*

*Following this, sand and water **are added** to the clay, and this mixture **is turned** into bricks by either placing it into a mould or using a wire cutter. Next, these bricks **are placed** in an oven to dry for 24 – 48 hours.*

*In the subsequent stage, the bricks go through a heating and cooling process. They **are heated** in a kiln at a moderate and then a high temperature (ranging from 200c to 1300c), followed by a cooling process in a chamber for 2 – 3 days. Finally, the bricks **are packed** and **delivered** to their destinations.*

## Varying your Language

Sometimes it may be appropriate just to use the same language that you are given in the IELTS process diagram to describe it, but you should try to vary it.

You may be able to use nouns from the diagram as your verbs. For example, the noun **packaging** in stage seven becomes:

*Finally, the bricks **are packed**...*

Follow this link from the model task 1 pages to see a [full IELTS process diagram model answer](#) for this process.